

# Candidates wait for mall study

By Gerard Grimaldi  
Missourian staff writer

Regardless of which candidates win the City Council elections today, the new council is not likely to decide on the proposed regional shopping mall until a study is completed.

Most of the 12 candidates say they are waiting for a study, commissioned for the city by the Land Clearance for

## CAMPAIGN '79

Redevelopment Authority, before taking a stand on the issue.

The new council will control the zoning, sewage facilities, water supply, traffic access and fire protection of the new mall. Mike Bathke, city planning director, said Monday he knows of "no such site" in the city that could ac-

commodate the proposed mall without council action in one of these areas.

The two mayoral candidates have stated their views on the mall proposal, each seeing a different role for the council in the matter. Sixth Ward Councilman Clyde Wilson said he favors active city involvement with planning and location of the mall, while his opponent, savings and loan executive Harold Cox, proposed a

laissez-faire stance.

Wilson, citing city investments in the downtown area in the last 10 years like the purchase of the County-City Building, the renovation of the Fire and Police Building and the burying of utility lines, favors discouraging a mall on the city's fringe until it is determined if a mall could locate downtown. If a mall is built outside the downtown area, he wants to know in advance how

it will effect downtown businesses.

Cox says the city should impose only normal zoning restrictions and make sure the mall does not interfere with traffic flow. He would prefer a downtown mall, but says the marketplace, not the city, should determine where a mall locates.

First Ward candidate Mary Ratliff is

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## Polling places open at 6 a.m.

Polls are open from 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. today. The League of Women Voters will provide information at 443-3445 or 442-7604. Information also may be obtained by calling the County Clerk's office at 874-7518 or 874-7438.

# Columbia Missourian

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## Insight Columbia could lose \$9 million

By Paul O. Wilson  
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Columbia could eventually lose more than \$9 million as a result of an informal action taken by Democrats on the House Budget Committee to eliminate the entire state revenue sharing program — a budget cut of \$2.3 billion for fiscal year 1980.

The city's share is part of \$43 million Missouri could stand to lose by the action. Local and county revenue sharing programs, however, would not be affected directly.

Although Congress is a long way from adopting the change, Bill Dye, director of Missouri's Division of Budget and Planning, said the move, if successful, would cause "big problems" for Missouri.

"It's going to put us in pretty difficult straits if it passes, because most of our revenue sharing goes for capital improvements," Dye said.

Some of the proposed improvement projects that might be affected in Columbia, Dye said, include:

- \$6.3 million for the University to comply with federal clean air standards;
- \$2.3 million for a new animal research center;
- \$306,000 for maintenance of deteriorating campus buildings;
- \$50,000 for the Ellis Fischel Cancer Research Hospital.

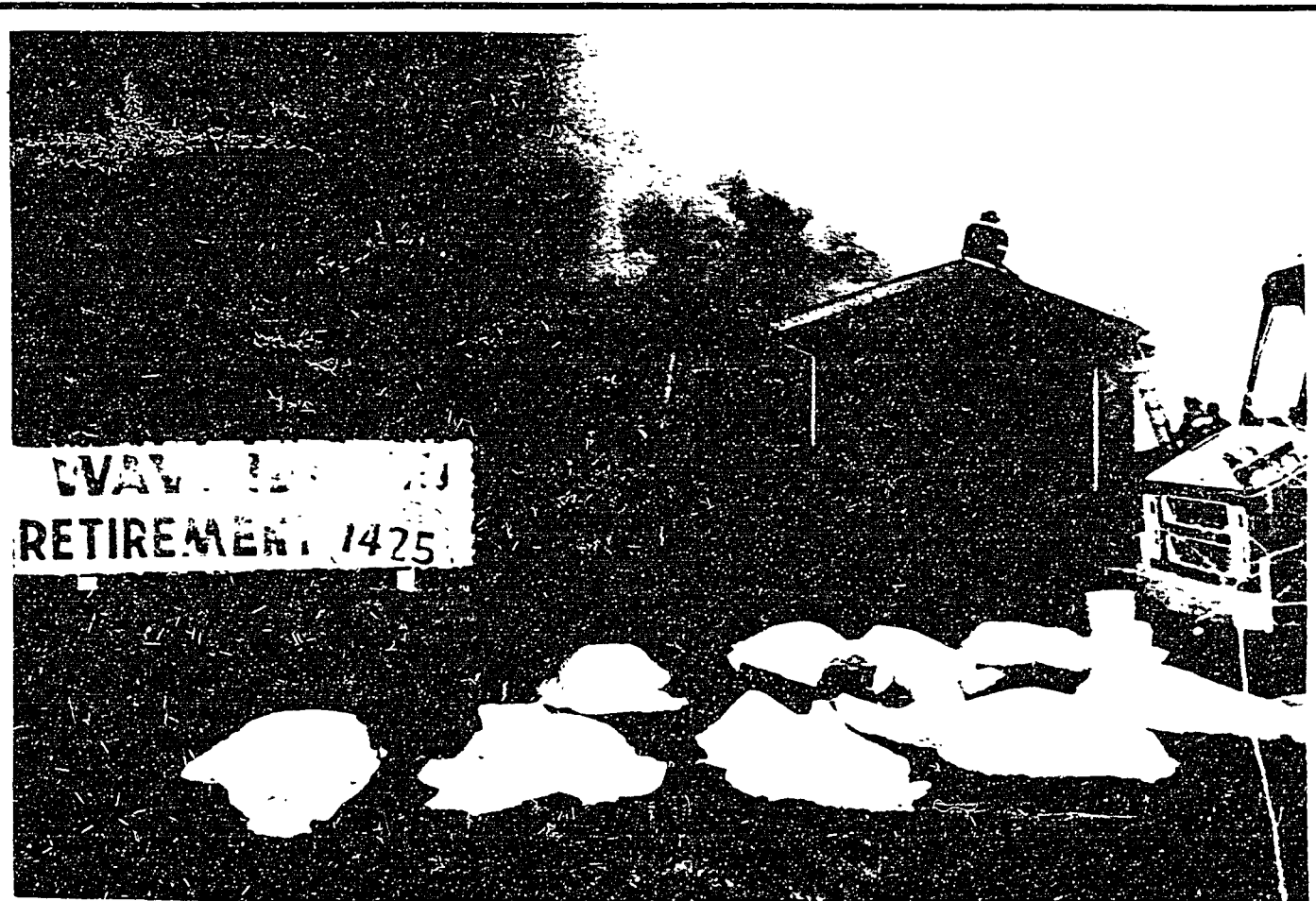
A staff person with Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Third District, Missouri's only congressman on the budget committee, said, "As it stands now, unless something unusual happens," the full committee will take up the budget today without money for state revenue sharing in it. The committee must send its budget recommendations to the House floor by April 15.

Dye said the state has been assuming revenue sharing money would be available for the next fiscal year because the program has been authorized by Congress through fiscal year 1981.

"What the state would have to do is have a radical, abrupt change. We would make wholesale chops in our capital improvements budget," Dye said.

However, Ken McClure, director of the state's legislative budget research office, said Missouri could manage without the money.

"It wouldn't be an insurmountable (See GROWTH, Page 11)



Bodies of some of the 25 people killed Monday in Farmington, Mo., lay on the front lawn of the Wayside Inn as firemen battle the blaze. Firefighters from nine communities fought the

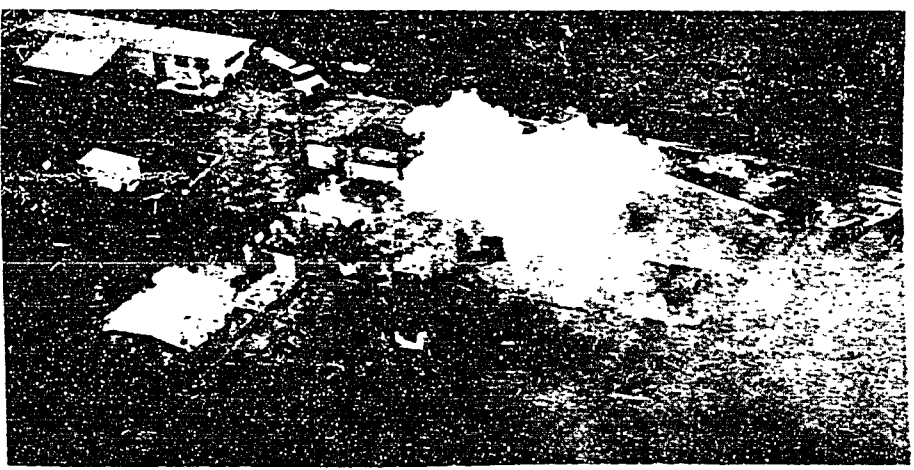
fire, but they were hampered in their effort because the nearest water hydrant was one-half mile (.8 kilometers) away.

## Inferno kills 25 in home

FARMINGTON, Mo. (AP) — A rural boarding house turned into an inferno Monday as a roaring fire killed 25 residents and sent the building's roof crashing down on many of their bodies, authorities said.

Thirteen others survived, seven were injured.

Residents of the Straughan Wayside Inn included 13 persons placed there by Farmington State Hospital, which deals in mental disorders and treatment of alcoholism and drug abuse, authorities said. Only six of the former state hospital patients sur-



The fire swept through the boarding home, which was a row of connected stucco-and-brick cottages, on the outskirts of Farmington, Mo.

vived, one was in critical condition.

Fire Chief Bob Oder said most of the victims died of smoke inhalation before the roof collapsed onto their beds, raining fiery debris on firefight-

ers trying to get through to the residents.

"It was an inferno is what it was,"

(See BUILDING, Page 14)

## Council offers to pay \$8,000 for coal violation

By Andy Maykuth  
and Katherine Kerr  
Missourian staff writers

The City Council Monday night offered to pay an \$8,000 fine to settle a criminal contempt of court citation for purchasing coal with a high ash content for the municipal power plant.

The Missouri Air Conservation Commission, which sought the contempt citation, still must approve the council's offer before the suit is resolved. The city was cited March 20 for contempt of a 1976 Boone County Circuit Court order limiting the ash content of city coal purchases.

The council went behind closed doors to discuss the offer and emerged 10 minutes later. It then unanimously approved a resolution offering the settlement.

That resolution also included an agreement with the air conservation commission to extend to May 25 the deadline for the city to install pollution control equipment.

The court-ordered March 15 deadline passed without a \$2.5-million pollution control device fully in operation. A subsequent investigation satisfied state officials that the city did not act in bad faith by missing the deadline.

On Friday, city officials negotiated the deadline extension with Dan Summers, Missouri assistant attorney general. He called Monday to accept the deadline extension, City Manager Stuart Campbell said.

"I think we should be satisfied with this agreement," said Mayor Les Proctor.

In the outgoing council's last business meeting, it also defeated, by a 4-3 vote, a move by Fifth Ward Councilman Ed Vaughan to authorize a \$15,000 audit of the City Parks and Recreation Department.

Vaughan said he was not "picking on" the fast-growing parks and recreation department. "I don't feel like it would be a waste of money. It would be an investment in public confidence," Vaughan said.

Price Waterhouse & Co., the city-commissioned auditing firm, was considered to do the audit. But a

management audit does not fall under the present contract agreement with the firm. It would cost an additional \$12,000 for Price Waterhouse to conduct the parks and recreation audit.

Additionally, Proctor said an audit should be discussed during the council's spring retreat or during the fall budget sessions.

Sixth Ward Councilman Clyde Wilson disagreed. Wilson, who said every department should get an audit, wanted the parks and recreation audit approved immediately so the information could be used when the council is considering the city budget next fall.

But Vaughan won't give up. Afterward he said he would bounce the audit idea off the new council, which is to be elected today.

The council also unanimously approved a city staff investigation of a \$10 million capital improvements bond issue. Proctor initiated the plan.

City Counselor Rhonda Thomas said if the council approves the bond issue, it will have to go before the voters in bits and pieces. Under state law, the proposals must be categorically broken down by each public works project.

That means the proposal may be presented in a number of different bond issues, each for a different project, "although you could market them as one proposition for the voters," Mrs. Thomas said.

Proctor agreed with Mrs. Thomas. If the bond issue were broken down into a number of issues, the voters could approve or disapprove of each public works project separately, Proctor said.

Proctor also said he favors the bond issue because it locks the city into a capital improvements program. If the city doesn't approve the bond issue, future city councils could altogether cancel public works improvements and use the city sales tax revenue for other purposes, Proctor said.

But Vaughan saw a disadvantage in that idea. "It would greatly restrict our budget flexibility" if part of the sales tax revenue was committed to repaying bonds. That money could not be used for other purposes during a financial

(See VAUGHAN, Page 14)

## Hazards abating at nuclear power plant

United Press International

The crisis at the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Harrisburg, Pa., appeared to be easing Monday, giving state officials added time before a decision on a precautionary evacuation prior to final reactor close-down attempts.

Harold Denton, head of Nuclear Regulatory Commission operations at the Susquehanna River site, said the dangerous hydrogen gas bubble that blocked attempts to bring the reactor to a cold shutdown seemed to have shrunk dramatically during the past 24 hours.

He also reported the reactor core was cooling steadily, with only two fuel assemblies above 400 degrees Fahrenheit (152 degrees Celsius). On Sunday, only four assemblies were below 400 F (152 C).

"I think it is certainly safer than yesterday," said Denton. "I think there certainly is reason for optimism."

A spokesman for Gov. Dick Thornburgh in Harrisburg, Pa., said he was assessing the latest developments but continued to advise

pregnant women and pre-school children to stay out of a five-mile (eight-kilometer) radius around the plant. Young children and unborn babies are most vulnerable to low-level radiation damage.

Twenty-three schools around the power plant were closed Monday. Thornburgh said state employees should report to work as normal.

Civil defense officials in four counties said one-third, or 200,000, of those living within 20 miles (32 kilometers) of the nuclear plant have left the area.

The people seem to be taking their money with them. Lawrence Murdoch, vice president of the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, said his bank made two shipments of "several millions of dollars to Harrisburg area banks because of the extraordinary numbers of withdrawals tied to Three Mile Island."

Some Harrisburg area merchants estimated retail business was off 50 percent.

Small levels of radiation still were being released from the plant. Prior to the reduction in the size of the bubble Monday, its presence presented engineers with their most serious problem and prompted

the fears about evacuation.

Not only did the hydrogen bubble within the reactor's steel pressure vessel block final cooling efforts, but oxygen produced by a radiation reaction with water raised the eventual possibility of an explosion. Such an explosion might release large amounts of radioactive particles.

Despite the nuclear emergency at Three Mile Island Carter will ask Congress for a faster process for approving new nuclear plants, according to Energy Secretary James Schlesinger.

Whatever the eventual outcome of the nuclear accident, the cost in dollars and cents is going to be astronomical.

American Nuclear Insurers, which has underwritten the plant for \$300 million in property damage, already has paid out \$7,000 in liability claims to residents who fled the area and Carol Dower, a spokeswoman for ANI, said Monday that's only the beginning.

"It will be a long time — several weeks — before we have an accurate estimate of damage," she said. "We're not giving any ballpark figure yet."

## Carters exhibit interest in plant

© Chicago Sun-Times

MIDDLETOWN, Pa. — Rosalynn Carter was there — inside the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear power plant — because, she said, "I am interested."

President Carter was there to see for himself the control room of reactor No. 2, where Metropolitan Edison Co. officials struggled for several desperate hours last week to bring under control the nation's worst, scariest nuclear accident.

Only 110 feet (33 meters) from where they stood in the brilliantly lit room was the radioactive core of the heavily damaged reactor.

Only a few days ago, engineers at the controls were wearing respirators as a precaution against airborne radioactivity.

"There is no contamination in that area," Margaret Plon, a radiological technician, said of the room. "They already checked it out."

Carter has come to the scene of nuclear messes before. More than 25 years ago as a junior officer in the Navy, he was on a team that had to dismantle a reactor that had run amok at Chalk River, Ontario.

After spending 15 minutes inside the control room, the Carters descended a

long flight of stairs and emerged from the control tower.

During his three-hour visit, Carter saw few outward signs of what this nuclear crisis is doing to life around here.

Some motels and restaurants were short of help as their employees began to leave the area. Nursing homes have been emptied. Grocers are having trouble selling the milk on their shelves because of suspicion that the dairy cows grazing on rolling pasture land have been contaminated. Inside the state prison, inmates worry that they will be among the last evacuated — or left behind.

## Ruins in ocean may be Atlantis

MOSCOW (UPI) — A Soviet scientist says a recent expedition west of Gibraltar may have found the lost continent of Atlantis — right where Greek philosopher Plato predicted it would turn up.

Prof. A.A. Aksyeyov, director of the Soviet Oceanology Institute, said in the magazine Light that a recent expedition found ruins and a group of flat-top mountains about 300 to 500 feet (90 to 150 meters) below the surface of the ocean.

The horseshoe-shaped area is in the Atlantic off Gibraltar, the area Plato

designated in his account of tales about the lost continent, the first report to mention an advanced civilization lost underwater.

Aksyeyov did not give any more details on the location of the ruins or the horseshoe-shaped area.

"The geologists think it quite possible that this horseshoe was a rather large archipelago that submerged as the result of geological unrest," he said.

He said eight underwater photographs taken by the research vessel Kurchatov focused on the flat

top of one of the underwater mountains, Mt. Amper.

"The pictures show quite vividly lines of brick or stone walls and fragments of wide steps," the oceanologist said.

He said the area "naturally demands more careful investigation" but that the top of Mt. Amper could easily be examined closer with existing equipment.

The scientist currently is on a second expedition to the site and was expected to return to the Soviet Union in mid-April.